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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/00639</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 15 January 1998 (15.01.98)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data:          08/784,536 17 January 1997 (17.01.97) US          08/948,987 10 October 1997 (10.10.97) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): RAYONIER INC. [US/US]; 1177 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905-5522 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and          (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TAN, Erol [CA/US]; 324 Harbor Oak Drive, St. Simons Island, GA 31522 (US). ABITZ, Peter, R. [US/US]; 308 Brailsford Place, St. Simons Island, GA 31522 (US). CHINAI, Kays [US/US]; 606 Brockinton Drive, St. Simons Island, GA 31522 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: NORTHRUP, Thomas, E.; Rockey, Milnamow &amp; Katz, Ltd., Suite 4700, Two Prudential Plaza, Chicago, IL 60601 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b>          Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</p>
<p>(54) Title: A SOFT, STRONG, ABSORBENT MATERIAL FOR USE IN ABSORBENT ARTICLES</p> <div data-bbox="324 1092 1331 1617"> </div> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>An absorbent material that can be used as an absorbent core in absorbent articles such as disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products and incontinence devices is provided. An absorbent material of this invention contains cellulosic fibers at least a portion of which cellulosic fibers have a relative crystallinity of less than about 65 percent. The absorbent material has superior absorptive, strength, and suppleness properties when compared to existing core materials. The material can be air-laid in one or more layers.</p>		